

- Dec. 5 Snowed A.M. Most boys cold -  
my rubber blanket protects me & is worth  
a farm.
- Dec. 7 Freezing - fire in tent - Articles of war read again  
drew cartridges
- Dec. 8 Band drill, 1 Co drill. Orders to pack up  
& be ready to march
- Dec. 9-10 - drill & picket.
- Dec. 11 Letters from mother & Vin.
- Dec. 12 Rec'd shelter tents "the boys will  
not take them."
- Dec. 13 Guard - wrote Vin, rec'd letter from her  
rheumatism.
- Dec. 14 Washed clothes
- Dec. 15-16 Drill, fix clothes. "Old Col. got very mad  
and cursed us" Reconnaissance
- Dec. 18 - Batal drill - Got 50¢ worth of tobacco  
& loaf of bread. "Hurt my leg like thunder"
- Dec. 20 Built fireplace in tent - picket  
Heavy cannonade - Stood in line of battle
- Dec. 21 Brigade review, Prayer meeting at tent.  
Corporals all reduced in rank for not  
having shoes blacked
- Dec. 22 Forage - Got 4 geese, 1 can of milk & carton  
of buttermilk



Dec 23 Wrote Vini.

Got things ready for Vinas dinner.

Dec 25 Letter from Vini + Mother, all excitement  
had fight today - bread + cakes for supper.

Dec 26 Move forward. Drove rebels all day -  
rain + mud.

Dec 27 Rain all night moved toward Munfreesboro.  
heavy rain. Shelled + skirmished.

Dec 29 March all day - line of battle all night rain.  
Woke up + found self lying in water, blankets  
all mud + water.

Dec 30 Fight - lost 5 of our men.

Dec 31 "Rebs attacked us at daylight. Drove  
them back twice. 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> gave way.  
we then retreated. Chased us into the woods.  
formed our line again and drove them back  
twice. - Rebs chased us through the timber. Lost  
160 men. Got lost from the Regt in the P.M.  
and did not find them until next day. + the  
ground is covered for miles with the dead."



End of year 1862

"Well Vine here is a small vacant place and as I have almost  
dispaired of ever receiving any more letters from home I  
may as well fill this up with some kind of trash I have  
been sick since commencing 2 very sick for two or three  
days but am getting well now fit again for duty we will  
have a good Dr now I think. Our head Dr died since the fight  
and Pierce of the 36th has been appointed in his place. a  
change that I am very glad of. Vine I do not know as you  
will care much about this diary but I will send it to you.  
It will not be apt to interest you much but such as it is  
you are welcome to keep it for me. Vine untill I come home.  
And if I should be so unfortunate as never to return to you  
then I wish you to destroy this little memory of part of my  
life. If I am sacrificed in this wretched ill conducted  
war I want all the little notions that would remind one of  
me destroyed, And forget as soon as possible that ever I was  
fool enough to have any thing to do with this affair. ~~Boxin~~  
Bought wit? is the best, when you do not pay to dear for  
it, if we never meet here and do in another world, you will  
find me a wiser man than I ever was here. If often think I  
shall ever walk from the road up to my House again and  
whether you will stand on the porch to greet me or not.  
When that event does happen it will be a happy day for me.  
Yess, Vine, Happy will be no name for what I will then enjoy.  
This is a cold day in Tenn. the ground is froze and it is snow-  
ing very fast, it rained for twenty four hours rained hard  
before it froze up. It looks to me like old Ill if I was at  
home I should be getting my old jumper out and should begin  
to look around for Vine to take a ride. But I expect I shall  
have to forego the pleasure of sleigh riding this winter  
and attend to the sterner duties of soldering. But I expect  
to make up for all lost time when I get home again, yes home  
again, is not that a sweet word, it never sounded half so  
sweet to me before. But I expect if write any more such trash  
to you that it will make you feel bad but I may just as well  
tell the truth as to lie. But for all this I yet have firm  
faith in seeing Vine again and spending many happy years with  
you. But no more of this. Theodore is very sick at present.  
I have not seen him for two days but the boys say he is  
crazy. Austin seems to have gotten entirely out of the notion  
of going with the girls in his last letter to me he says he is  
through going with half married girls. He thinks it was a  
good joke on -- Gray. He told me how long he has basked  
in Virges deceitful smiles, but he did not say anything about  
her mithering him. He also said he was done going with Em. He  
he did not find out untill lately that she was engaged but  
that he had now heard it from a source which he could no  
longer doubt. Good for him. You have never told me how you  
get along how you going to school nor what you study. How  
many scholars do you have and are you having a good time  
I hope you are. George is now first Lieut and commands the  
is left of Co G. He wears his honors very nicely. Coc of the  
boys got a letter from Dave Brown he says he is not well but  
would come back again if his folks were willing. Poor thing.  
He never returned out one day and never seen any of the boys  
of a soldier life, but he has seen enough for him to know. Now  
my Dearest good bye love and a kiss for you and remember your ever

Castell. John.



Camp on Stone River

Tenn Jan 16th 1862 (32)

Vine, agreeable to my promise before leaving you I am now about to send you a short account of my actions during the last year, for seven months of that time I was at my happy home, And where I could see you every day. time then was short and passed very pleasantly. There were seven of the Happiest months I ever passed. Happier than I expect to be for seven to come. Five months of the Twelve has been passed in the service of my country. In the tented field, far, far away from all that I love or hold dear on earth. In that short time I have learned much of men and things, War hardens mens hearts, transforms them it seems to me almost into brutes. I have seen men that I have no doubt were tender hearted and affectionate at home, turn and leave a fellow being, leave him to die, leave him without a word of sympathy or apparently without regret. Here man must take care of himself or he falls. All are friends yet no one cares for another. Shoulder straps rule the day. A private is nothing but a machine. And moves as they will instead of seeing a Dr., to get medicine, you are taken there for the purpose of seeing wheather you are fit for duty or not. Your own feelings are not consulted if he marks you fit for duty on duty you must go. This practise has killed thousands of men and will kill thousands more. It is true we have won a great Battle here. But it was a dear victory to us. but dear as it was it was the first we have gained for many weary months. The army is dissatisfied. We are miserably feed and worse cared for. It is impossible to find a man in our entire army but what is home sick, tired of the war and all anxious for Peace at any terms. And now worse than all the rest the rainy season has commenced. And we are not prepared for it with nothing to sleep on but our blankets and the wet ground. And some the time with any shelter. It begins to tell fearfully on our numbers. Our Hospitals are filling up to overflowing. The receive less care than we do. for we can see a little to ourselves. But Vine, it is no use of complaining I beleive that the Government is ruined lost, Many more lives will be sacrificed in attempting to save it and to satisfy the ambition of soulless men. Oh for a man that had the interest of his country and not money at heart. Although I am doing well as I expected to, yet Vine I with the rest am heartily sick of this wholesale murder. and I shall get out of it as soon as possible. I write this confidentially to you Vine. The boys are ashamed to write now they are used in the Grand Union Army But one only needs one day in camp to satisfy himself and be satisfied. Officers are resigning by scores but no such privileges are accorded to privates the sick cannot even get furloughs. But let them rip. they cant kill us all, and ofus will get home to our friends and loved ones. But much suffering must be endured but better times are coming."